

Rural District Council of Freebridge Lynn.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

CHARLES STUART WOODWARK, M.R.C.S., (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.)
Medical Officer of Health of Rural District of Freebridge
Lynn, for the Year ending 31st December, 1914.

The Rural District of Freebridge Lynn comprises 69,299 acres devoted to Agriculture, and the chief occupation of the inhabitants is Agricultural.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The total number of births for the year was 231, being a decrease of 26 compared with 1913. The birth rate 19·07.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered in the District was 123; there were also 14 residents who died out of the District, bringing the total deaths to 137. The death rate being 11·3, the lowest recorded for some years, and counterbalances the declining birth rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Only 15 deaths of children under 1 year were registered, which is most satisfactory; 3 died from Whooping Cough and one from Measles. The rate per 1,000 births=64·9.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—In common with all other Districts notifiable infectious diseases have been epidemic throughout the year. 180 cases have been notified. Non-notifiable diseases—Whooping Cough, Measles, Mumps and Chicken Pox have also been epidemic. There were 5 deaths from Whooping Cough, 2 from Measles.

Of the notifiable infectious diseases Scarlet Fever has been by far the most prevalent, 145 cases being notified, distributed in the various parishes, as follows :—

Grimston 31.	Middleton 19.	Flitcham 19.	West Newton 18.
West Bilney 13.	Congham 8.	Gaywood 12.	Hillington 6.
Harpley 6.	Castleacre 6.	Wolferton 6.	Roydon 4.
Gayton 3.	North Runcton 1.	Leziate 1.	Babingley 1.

ENTERIC FEVER.—3 cases were notified :—

Grimston 1.	Gayton Thorpe 1.	Middleton 1.
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2 of the cases ended fatally, the source of origin of the Grimston case could not be determined, but in the other 2 cases it was probably due to drinking water from an impure source whilst away from home at work.

DIPHTHERIA.—12 cases of a mild type were notified :—

Gaywood 7.	Ashwick 1.	Sandringham 1.
Wolferton 1.	Little Massingham 1.	Leziate 1.

The source of origin could not be determined.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—13 notifications received :—

Hillington District 7.

Gayton District 3.

Castle Rising District 3.

There were 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ; other forms of Tuberculosis notified were 6, and one death from other forms of Tuberculosis.

In all cases of notifiable infectious diseases this Council provides Izal disinfectants and Carbolic soap, and instructions are given as to the use of the same. All cases have to be treated in their homes, and so the chances of keeping an epidemic within bounds is most difficult, and I am sure that if, with the co-operation of other Districts, an Isolation Hospital could be erected, the number of notifications of infectious diseases would be considerably lessened and the danger to life also lessened, as we have been fortunate in having only a mild type of Scarlet Fever and also of Diphtheria ; had it not been so I am afraid the mortality would have been high, as in a good many cases the cottages were not suitable for isolation purposes, and so keeping other members of the household safe from infection was impossible.

This Council also has undertaken to pay for the cost of Antitoxin, and has also arranged with the Clinical Research Association to pay for the examination of blood, sputum and swabs (for Diphtheria cases) in the case of Residents in this District. This is of great benefit to the inhabitants, and is likely to show good results.

My remarks above as to the Co-operation of other District Councils in an Isolation Hospital apply also to a Small Pox Hospital. This Council possesses 2 portable buildings, but they are not erected on a suitable site, and the cost to properly staff them, provide water and drainage and disinfecting apparatus would be very high, and although Lynn was approached in the matter with an offer to pay a proportion of the costs of the upkeep of their buildings, the proposal was not favourably received.

I cannot trace any Small Pox cases ever having been notified in this District, but as in the latter part of the year troops have been billeted in the District and also some Belgian refugees, the occasion might arise.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Water Supply is mainly from Wells, except in the cases of (1) Gaywood, supplied by the Lynn Waterworks at Gayton. Part of Gaywood Parish, however, has been getting its drinking water from the Gaywood River. A sample of this water was submitted to Bacteriological analysis and found to be highly polluted with sewage and quite unfit for drinking purposes, and a notice has been served on all the owners of properties using this water to procure a suitable supply, and as the Lynn mains pass the fronts of these houses there should be no difficulty in procuring this water ; (2) Castle Rising supplied from the Babingley Stream.

In some parts of the District water is supplied from running streams, and care is taken to keep these supplies as pure as possible.

Great Massingham has not yet been able to secure a pure supply from the New Well (150 feet deep), all analysis showing it to be highly polluted, and it is probable that the spring is contaminated by the presence of another deep well some 400 yards away, which it has been found has been used as a cesspool for years, and in my opinion a fresh site will have to be found for the well before a pure supply can be got.

DRAINAGE.—Castleacre, Gaywood, Harpley and North Rington have drainage systems ; in all other cases where there is no system the people dispose of their slops and refuse in holes in their gardens or by taking them to their allotments. These holes are constantly being filled in and fresh ones prepared.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION is mostly of the pail and vault types, and whenever practicable the conversion of vault into pail is recommended.

SCAVENGING.—Three Parishes—Gaywood, Castleacre and Great Massingham have a system of scavenging, and this has been satisfactorily carried out in all cases.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—These have all been carried on in a satisfactory manner, with the exception of Suttons, of East Winch. This business is now being carried on by a new owner in a satisfactory way.

COW-SHEDS AND DAIRIES have been inspected frequently and found in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES all in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES have been carried on in a satisfactory manner and kept clean.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—80 inspections have been made in 7 different Parishes—Grimstone, Great Massingham, Gayton, West Winch, West Bilney, Leziate and East Walton.

The principal defects found—Damp floors, damp walls, insufficient light and ventilation, defective roofs, ceilings, floors, windows and doors, no guttering to eaves, dilapidated closets.

One closing order applied for in Gayton (one cottage).

No applications have been received by this Council for cottages.

It is not so much that new cottages are required in the District as that the present cottages in a good many cases are not large enough.

Two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

Twenty-three new houses have been erected during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—Full particulars are contained in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

C. S. WOODWARK,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor-rected Number	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Resi-dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1909	11847	275	275	23·2	160	13·5			28	101·8	160	13·5
1910	11847	270	270	22·3	143	12·7			15	58·3	143	12·7
1911	12107	282	282	23·2	144	11·8	3	13	25	88·6	154	12·7
1912	12107	237	237	19·5	144	11·8		16	22	92·0	160	13·2
1913	12107	257	257	21·2	147	12·1	3	18	19	73·5	162	13·3
1914	12107	231	231	19·07	123	10·1		14	15	64·9	137	11·3

Total population at all ages, 12,107. Total families or separate occupiers, 2,962.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 69,299.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							Total Cases notified in each Locality. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						Hillington	Castle Rising.	Gayton.
		1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards			
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	12	3	5	2	1	1		2	8	2
Erysipelas	1						1		1	
Scarlet Fever	145	21	92	21	9	2		98	13	34
Enteric Fever	3		1	1		1		1		2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	13		2	3	6	2		7	3	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	1	5					2	3	1
Total	180	25	105	27	16	6	1	110	28	42

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF " RESIDENTS " WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards	
All causes { Certified ..	135	14	3	6	5	3	15	24	65	5
Uncertified ..	2	1						1		
Enteric Fever	2				1	1				
Measles	2	1			1					
Scarlet Fever	1			1						
Whooping Cough	5	3		2						
Influenza	2							2		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5					1	4			
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	1			1						
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1		1							
Cancer, malignant disease ..	14							9	5	
Meningitis	2				1		1			
Organic Heart Disease.. ..	19						3	3	13	
Bronchitis	10	3						1	6	
Pneumonia (all forms)	7			1	2		1	1	2	
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1						1			
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	1			1						
Cirrhosis of Liver	1								1	
Alcoholism	1						1			
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5							3	2	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	4	4								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	3					1	2			
Other Defined Diseases	43	4	2				1	4	32	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	7						1	2	4	
	137	15	3	6	5	3	15	25	65	

INFANT MORTALITY.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 mths. and under 6 months	6 mths. and under 9 months	9 mths. and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year.
All Causes { Certified	4	1	5	1	4	3	1	14
Uncertified	1		1					1
Measles						1		1
Whooping-Cough					2	1		3
Bronchitis				1	1		1	3
Injury at birth	1		1					1
Atelectasis	1		1					1
Premature birth	2	1	3					3
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus ..	1		1		1	1		3
	5	1	6	1	4	3	1	15

Nett Births in the year, legitimate 218; illegitimate 13.

Nett deaths in the year, legitimate infants 13; illegitimate infants 2.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1914, FOR THE

Rural District of Freebridge Lynn,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops,
Workplaces and Homework.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries).—Inspections 187; Written Notices 3.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES—

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—Want of cleanliness.—Found 5; Remedied 5.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS—

Millers and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Boot and Shoe Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Harness Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wood Turners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Basket Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wheelwrights and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sheep Dip Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
									87

OTHER MATTERS—

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts,
but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901.—Notified by H.M. Inspector 4; Reports
(of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector 4.

C. S. WOODWARK,
Medical Officer of Health.

Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF

LOUIS FREDERIC BECKWITH, A.R.S.I.,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1914.

3,154 Inspections have been made, 42 complaints have been received, 419 nuisances and defects have been detected without complaint.

181 Written Notices have been served, 12 verbal notices have been given, and 439 nuisances and defects have been abated and remedied.

It has not been necessary to take proceedings against any individual, although in some cases very strong measures have had to be adopted.

The various nuisances and defects complained of and detected were as follows:—Defective roofs, ceilings, windows, doors, floors, leaky roofs, insufficient light and ventilation, damp floors and walls, dilapidated closets, defective cesspools, well linings and covers, blocked and defective drains, offensive refuse heaps, foul closets, defective closet pails, insufficient closet accommodation, insufficient and polluted water supplies, lack of provision for the collection of refuse.

A large number of covered sanitary dustbins have been supplied to houses in the Parishes where a system of scavenging is in operation ; this is being continued until all houses are supplied in these Parishes.

105 covered sanitary dustbins have been supplied.

6 vault closets converted into pail closets.

6 new pail closets have been erected apart from those erected with new houses.

12 new closet pails have been supplied to replace defective ones.

3 foul dykes have been cleansed.

5 dilapidated closets have been rebuilt.

5 offensive refuse heaps have been removed.

2 cases of animals improperly kept have been satisfactorily dealt with.

2 dirty cottages have been cleansed.

2 cases of overcrowding have been abated.

8 foul closets have been cleansed.

Various other nuisances have been detected and steps taken to abate the same.

WATER SUPPLY.—Four samples of water have been taken for analysis, three of which proved to be badly contaminated.

Two of the above analyses were taken from the Great Massingham Well, both of which proved to be very unsatisfactory; one was taken from the Gaywood River, which also proved to be badly polluted. The analysis, which turned out satisfactory, was collected from the Ashwick School Well. All operations on the Massingham Well have now ceased, it being a difficult matter to decide whether to proceed further with the present well or try on higher ground to tap a more pure supply. A Committee has been formed to go into the matter, and make a Report. The Report of the Analyst on the Gaywood River water has compelled the Council to notify the various owners of properties deriving their supply from the river as to the injurious qualities of the water, and to ask them to provide their tenants with a pure supply of water. This will be quite an easy matter as there is a 4-inch water main passing all the houses affected. Notices have been served on most of the owners to carry out the above requirements.

An application was received from the Parish of Setchey, asking the Council to procure permission to extend the Marham Water Main through the Parish, as the present supply was insufficient and of bad quality. I made an inspection of the water supply of the whole Parish, and prepared a Report on the matter. This was laid before the Council, and is now engaging their attention.

Five wells have been deepened, and the steining of the wells repaired.

Six defective well covers have been repaired and four defective pumps have been put in good working order.

The springs stood at a very low level towards the end of the summer; this was general all over the District, probably attributable to the dryness of the season.

DRAINAGE.—There are four Parishes in the District that have a drainage system, viz.:—Gaywood, Castleacre, Harpley, and North Runciton; these have been working very satisfactorily during the whole year.

Eight blocked drains have been put into good working order.

Five defective drainage systems have been altered to meet sanitary requirements.

Three new cesspools have been constructed, apart from those constructed with new houses.

Two defective cesspools have been repaired and air-tight covers fixed.

A complaint was received from the Norfolk Court of Sewers, respecting the drainage from 14 houses at Exton's Place, Gaywood, discharging into the Middleton Stop Drain. This matter has been attended to, and steps taken to divert the drainage to another course.

It will be necessary for the Council at some future time to consider the matter of extending the sewer along the Wootton Road in the Parish of Gaywood, as a large number of cesspools are constantly requiring attention in that part of the Parish, and numerous complaints have been received.

SCAVENGING.—There are three Parishes in the District that are systematically worked by a scavenger, viz.:—Gaywood, Castleacre and Great Massingham. This work has been carried out very satisfactorily during the year. During the last month of the year Troops were billeted in four Parishes of the District, viz.:—Gayton, Grimstone, Harpley and Middleton. Great care was taken to see they were not billeted at infectious houses. A system of scavenging was established where found necessary, the arrangements being made in conjunction with the Military Authorities.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—A very small number of houses have been inspected during the year, as so much time has been spent on other duties, chiefly those connected with Infectious Diseases.

80 Inspections have been made in company with the Medical Officer of Health in seven different Parishes, viz. :—East Walton, Leziate, Grimstone, Great Massingham, West Bilney, Gayton and West Winch. The following defects were found :—Defective roofs, ceilings, doors, floors and windows, insufficient light and ventilation, no guttering to eaves, damp floors and walls, defective and dilapidated closets. Notices were served on the various owners with the result that only 10 cottages are now requiring the defects remedied ; these are engaging the attention of the various owners, and will be carried out as soon as the drier weather arrives, as in most of the cases a part of the roofs have to be stripped.

One Closing Order was put into operation in respect to a cottage at Gayton.

A very old unoccupied cottage standing in a dangerous condition, in the Parish of Gayton, has been demolished.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED.—Gaywood 14, Hillington 4, East Winch 2, South Wootton 1, Middleton 1, Grimstone 1. Eight of the houses in the Parish of Gaywood, were connected with the sewer, and 10 in the same Parish to water mains.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—187 Inspections have been made, five dirty workshops have been cleansed. The bakehouses of the District are kept in a very satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—110 Inspections of slaughter-houses have been made, only one butcher has been asked to cleanse and lime-wash the premises, 155 carcasses of animals were inspected, no unsound meat seized.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1913.—One case has been reported during the year, at Castleacre. The animal was destroyed.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.—These have been inspected at frequent intervals, 83 inspections being made, and were found in a satisfactory condition. Two cowsheds were found with defective floors. The owners have been notified accordingly

One cow-keeper has been registered.

FELLMONGERS.—There are four of these businesses in the District, two at Gaywood, one at Grimstone, and one at East Winch. The three former have been carried on in a very satisfactory manner. A great deal of trouble was experienced with the proprietor of the East Winch business, who was under suspicion of sending diseased meat to a London Meat Market. In May last I found a Tubercular carcass of beef hanging at his premises, already dressed for the butcher. I gave instructions to him to destroy it immediately. A few weeks later a part of a carcass of beef was sent to London from these premises. This was seized in London and condemned, and the Authorities took proceedings against Sutton (the consignor of the meat), but he did not appear at the time summoned, and has not been seen since. The business is now under fresh management, and is being conducted under much improved conditions.

PREVENTION OF DISEASES.—There has been an epidemic of Infectious Diseases throughout the whole year, chiefly Scarlet Fever, and it has monopolised a great deal of my time, in investigating the causes, and in paying frequent visits to the infected houses. A constant supply of disinfectants was supplied to each case. 103 houses were disinfected after a period of infection.

PETROLEUM ACTS.—Three Petroleum Licenses were renewed and three new licenses were granted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LOUIS F. BECKWITH,

Inspector of Nuisances.

